

be in a position not to take the word of the man on the street, but to take reliable information secured by responsible officers of the Government.

#### The Treasurer's Pledge.

"We are determined to eradicate the evils, if evils there are, in connection with these race tracks. I pledge myself in this House to-night and I pledge the Government that during the months which are to follow the Government will find out not only exactly what our legal position is absolutely, but also what are all the facts concerning these different race tracks."

#### Mr. Elliott's Argument.

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) said he did not claim if the Minister gave his word to the Jockey Club he should break it, "but what I do say is this: if there is any doubt about the right of the honorable members of this House and this Government to know all about the profits that are being made in connection with these various companies racing in the Province, that doubt should be removed at the earliest possible moment. There is no reason why somebody who is carrying on racing in the Province to-day should be protected with regard to the amount of profits that he is making beyond the protection that is afforded any man in legitimate business in this Province."

In the course of Mr. Proudfoot's reply to the discussion, Hon. Mr. McGarry declared he was advised by Mr. Hellmuth that if he had refused the fees these people could have gone ahead with racing.

## NICKEL CONCERNS WILL STILL BE UNDERTAXED

### Mr. Dewart Criticizes New Mining Bill

## WILL NOT SUFFICE

**If in 1915 Corporations Had Been Taxed Upon New Basis \$620,000 Instead of \$40,000 Would Have Been Realized.**

The bill providing for increased mining taxation passed through committee in the Legislature yesterday, and was given a third reading after Liberals had tried to impress upon the Government that a higher scale of nickel duties would be justified. Mr. Rowell extracted the information that if the profits for the 1915 working year had been taxed on the new system these would have brought in \$620,000 instead of \$40,000, and if it was assumed, as had been stated, that the nickel profits were \$16,000,000 for the 1916 working year to which the legislation applies, the revenue would be something like \$980,000. Hon. G. Howard Ferguson gave the figures, but regarded the \$16,000,000 as hypothetical.

Mr. Hartley Dewart took the decided view that the bill did not go far enough, and would not satisfy the people. He maintained that for the three preceding years—which are still under the illegal agreement that was made by the then Minister of Mines and the company, an agreement for which there was no foundation in law—there should be an increased assessment on the basis provided in the new act. If that were done it would bring in another half a million dollars.

#### Increase Percentage.

"But further, let me say," con-

tinued the member for Southwest Toronto, "having regard to the increasing income of the company and all that has been pressed upon the minds of the Ministers, one would have expected that when the Minister of Mines brought down his reconstructed bill he would have put the taxation on the basis of 5 per cent. on the first \$5,000,000 profit, 10 per cent. on the second five million dollars, and 15 per cent. on the third five million dollars." Mr. Dewart moved that the sub-section be amended, making the figures 10 per cent. instead of 6 per cent., and 15 per cent. instead of 7 per cent. That was 10 per cent. on the second five millions profit and 15 per cent. on the third five millions.

#### Province Should Get \$3,000,000.

Sir William Hearst—That is out of order.

Mr. Dewart—I wish the Premier would get in order and do these things we think to be in order. Continuing, the member for Southwest Toronto said he thought he was within his rights in contending when a bill was under consideration in the House that he might suggest such changes as might appeal to the minds of his honorable friends. The responsibility, however, of increasing taxation rested with the Ministry, and he was trying to put it where it belonged. If what he suggested were adopted the Province, instead of getting \$900,000, should get a little more than \$3,000,000 from the International Nickel Company for these years that had passed.

#### Make Amendments Retroactive.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson, in explaining the system of the bill, said, assuming the profit was \$16,000,000, that would form the basis of their calculation. Beyond the deductions that were in the present act they deducted simply the actual cost of refining and marketing the nickel. The Mine Assessor had the first say and made up his assessment and if the companies took exception they had to show him.

With reference to the amendment in the workmen's compensation act giving the Compensation Board power to decide cases on the real merits rather than be bound by strict legal precedent, Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) referred to the case of Mr. Taylor of Sarnia, who was killed while going from one engine to another. The member for West Middlesex wished the amendment to be made retroactive so that any cases since 1st February, 1915, of the kind which the new clause was intended to meet would be reconsidered.

Mr. Proudfoot, Mr. Hartley Dewart and Mr. Studholme supported the retroactive idea, but the Attorney-General did not agree, and Mr. Elliott's motion on the subject was defeated. The workmen's compensation amendment act was given its third reading.

#### Up to Railway Company.

The Toronto bill, including the street car legislation, came up for third reading. Mr. Gooderham, referring to his attitude before the committee, said he then had in mind that if the railway company could not get the material to build their cars and the board changed its order the city would be in exactly the same position as it was before. He therefore suggested an amending clause which would give the Railway Board the right to say to the city of Toronto: "We believe the railway company have done their best to get cars, but if you think you can get cars, then we will give you the right to do it." The Mayor and others, however, had protested against this, and he would therefore withdraw his amendment.

#### Complete Government Control.

Mr. Rowell, speaking on the Hydro bills when they were before the Legislature yesterday, declared he approved the principle of giving the Hydro-electric Power Commission the power to acquire existing developments, and added: "We must ultimately work towards complete Government control of the power situation not only in reference to Niagara, but other sections of the Province."

With regard to the legislation giving the municipalities the right of taxing Hydro lands, Mr. Sam Carter caught on to the words of the Attorney-General, "tax on land values," and commented, amid laughter: "I would have thought you would put the soft pedal on that." Just as the laughter was subsiding Mr. Rowell remarked: "We have hopes yet."